



Incorporated 1787

**Board of Police Commissioners
Tuesday February 2, 2016
Meeting Minutes
7:00 PM Town Hall Commission Room**

Meeting called to order at 7:00 PM

Commissioners Present: Bill Brady Chairman, Beth Gralnick Vice Chairman,
Jess DiPasquale, Susan Moch, Peter Ottomano, Woody Bliss

Others Present: Chief Troxell, Nina Daniel, Chip Platow, Margaret
Wirtenberg, Todd Bucaro and Don Scarborough

- 1. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 2. Consideration / Approval January 5, 2016 Meeting Minutes**

Commissioner Brady motioned to approve January 5, 2016 Meeting Minutes, 2nd by Commissioner Gralnick, motion passed.

- a) **Public Facilities Update – The 1st Selectman Nina Daniel thanked the Police Commissioners for inviting her tonight she stated that she looks forward to a close working relationship with the Police Department and the Police Commission because she appreciates all the work that they do. You are the key to the safety and security that we feel in our Town of Weston. The 1st Selectman stated that she is here tonight to discuss several different alternatives and solutions to the problems of the physical conditions of the Police Departments current facilities. The 1st Selectman commented upon her tour of the current Police Station in need of immediate improvement, which should not be delayed for another three to five years, these issues must be dealt with now this is one of my priorities. Rather than looking at a brand new facility the 1st Selectman is looking into renovating and expanding. A number of people have felt a new facility plus the renovation of the old facility, once you vacate it you have to do**

something with it the whole thing can cost up to fourteen million dollars. Under this new scenario, I would like to consider something that has already been considered before, leaving the police facility where it is now and renovating it and expanding into the rest of town hall to give you the adequate amount of square footage to meet the Police Departments needs now and into the future. This has not been a new issue this has been discussed before. On October 15, 2015 the Board of Selectman moved to obtain a schematic design for renovation within the existing foot print of the Police Department in order to explore more affordable solutions to address the needs. Upon careful re-consideration on December 22, 2015 we authorized a schematic design for the Police Departments renovation within the current footprint which notably with such contiguous areas of Town Hall would be appropriate which is not limiting renovation to where you are now which I could not have supported. Since then the Architect Brian Humes has been asked to bring back to the table a new plan in accordance with the wishes of the current 1st Selectman as he will have a design and a schematic by February 29, 2016 which was the 1st Selectmans request so she can bring it to the next Police Commission meeting on March 1, 2016 and whatever stage it is in and the level of detail that can be accomplished by then. Nina stated there are three things; one to do it right, two to do it in a timely fashion and three to do it in an affordable fashion. These three issues have to be considered equally. So on March 1, 2016 the 1st Selectman would ask everyone in looking at Brian Humes report to advise her if these issues address code compliance, added necessary space, organization and modernization of the facility and if it is acceptable to the Police Department and whether it anticipates the future needs of the Police Department. I would expect it to be cost effective and able to be realized in a reasonable amount of time. Patience is a virtue you have had it for a long time discussions have dragged literally for years without a resolution. Moreover by taking a fresh look, this could save the tax payer millions of dollars that is a fact that cannot be ignored. Additionally along with the issue with the Police expansion into Town Hall we need to consider the purchasing of the old Guidera property at 177 Weston Road that Fairfield County Bank currently owns. This is not a new issue on the table. This was brought forth to a Town meeting at the Library in June 2013 at which time the public approved Six hundred and ten thousand dollars to purchase the property. At that time it was not clear how it would be used and how much the additional renovation would be. The total impact was not clear at that time. If we do this renovation and expansion into Town Hall, part of this plan would include purchasing the property so that the displaced offices go to the property at 177 Weston Road. There was a discussion about using the facilities while the renovation is going on. We will wait until we get the cost from Brian Humes and what he recommends he has done a number of Police Department's renovation and expansions.

3. Chief's Report

- a) **Temporary Stop Signs and Signage Cobbs Mill Inn** – Todd Buccaro said that they are very happy with the temporary stop signs. He said with the increase of business they are having they are dramatic with how much they are helping, without those temporary stop signs someone will get hurt. The stop signs are not in place to control speed, but have been placed in that area to assist with vehicles entering and exiting the parking area for Cobbs Mill Inn and to also enhance the safety of the double pedestrian cross walks from the parking area to Cobbs Mill Inn. Chief Troxell spoke about an e-mail he received from a Massachusetts resident regarding the issue about speed limit signs on Old Mill Road he claims they are incorrect. The state DOT website lists the speed limits on Old Mill Road as 15 mph for the north end near Cobbs Mill Inn and 25 mph on the south end of the road near the Wilton town line. The Chief and the Commission want to leave Old Mill Road at 15 mph.
- b) **Godfrey Road West** they have been receiving positive reviews regarding the temporary stop signs.
- c) **Result of Portable Speed Trailer on Goodhill Road** – Officer Curcio was not able to attend tonight's meeting but he has met with Chip Platow regarding the readings on Goodhill Road and he is still working on getting more readings on Goodhill Road. Chip said Officer Curcio has been very responsive and he is an asset to the Town of Weston.
- d) **Additional Road Safety Updates – Lyons Plains Road** – John Conte wants to bring a proposal to the Commissioners to make a three way stop at River Road and Lyons Plains Road. Commissioner Ottomano would like the Chief to look at the public easement at that intersection.
- e) **Hal Hutchison Letter construction of the new bridge on Valley Forge Road.** Commissioner Brady asked everyone to drive by and see it. Commissioner Ottomano suggested more signage should be in that area when you come South from Valley Forge road when you approach the bridge he would like to see more Pedestrian signage. The Chief will talk to Joe Lametta about signage in that area.
- f) **Current Monthly Reports / OT / Budget** – Overtime has been down this past month. Brief discussion regarding overtime it is event driven, snow storms, etc. Johnny Marsili is doing very well at the Police Academy.
- g) **Grant Updates / Donations** – Officer Joe Miceli is looking into Grants. The Chief stated that the Police Department received a \$1,500.00 donation from the Vranos Family Foundation. They also donated to the Police Department last year in March. The Chief would like to use the donation to buy the bullet proof vests for the Police Officers.
- h) **Sub-Committee Reports** – The Chief and Commissioner Gralnick will be attending the Board of Selectman meeting on Monday, February 8th at 7:30 PM.

Commissioner Gralnick made a motion to approve the \$1,500.00 donation from the Vranos Family , 2nd by Commissioner Moch, motion passed. The Chief will get on the Selectman's next Agenda for approval.

i) Additional Business for Commission Consideration – None at this time.

Commissioner Brady asked for a motion to go into Executive Session at 8:50 PM, 2nd by Commissioner Ottomano, motion approved.

The Commission came out of Executive Session at 9:13 PM and adjourned at 9:15 PM.

**Respectfully submitted,
Mary Gunshor
Police Commission Recording Secretary**

**Approved
April 5, 2016**